

### Amendments to the Claims

Kindly amend claims 8 & 15 as set forth below. All pending claims are reproduced below, with changes in the amended claims shown by underlining (for added matter) and strikethrough/double brackets (for deleted matter).

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A request management system comprising:  
a computer environment;

means for receiving by a request manager of the computer environment a first request from a requester, the first request associated with meta data, said meta data corresponding to data stored and maintained separately from the meta data by a data object manager of a storage subsystem of the computer environment, and said meta data being information about the data itself;

means, responsive to receipt of the first request at the request manager, for processing the meta data associated with the first request and for automatically informing, by the request manager, the data object manager of an anticipated, second request to be subsequently received by the data object manager from the requester to enable the data object manager to prepare for the anticipated second request, prior to receipt thereof, wherein the anticipated, second request to be received by the data object manager is at least partially ascertained [[ascertainable]] from processing the meta data associated with the first request received by the request manager; and

wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by adjusting utilization of a cache of the computer environment based on information derived from the meta data associated with first request by the request manager before the anticipated, second request is received at the data object manager from the requester.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by at least one of pre-fetching into the cache data required by the anticipated, second request, thereby reducing data access latency, or moving data from the cache to a disk of the storage subsystem, thereby facilitating receipt of data at the cache.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein said preparing comprises means for managing contents of a cache in a data storage subsystem, wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by noting that data associated with the anticipated, second request is not to be cached.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated second request by managing the requester's access to the data.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

means for sending, by the request manager, a reply to the requester in response to the first request substantially simultaneously with informing the data object manager of the anticipated, second request to be received; and

means for thereafter receiving, by the data object manager, the second request from the requester, wherein said preparing by the data object manager begins before the data object manager receives the anticipated, second request.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9, wherein said pre-fetching comprises means for pre-fetching one or more data blocks from one or more storage media of the data storage subsystem whereby the data blocks are stored in the cache, the data blocks comprising at least some of the data.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the preparing by the data object manager comprises means for releasing storage locations of the cache, whereby the storage locations become available for storing other data.

15. (Currently Amended) At least one program storage device readable by a computer embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the computer to perform when executing on the computer a method of managing requests in a computer environment, said method comprising:

receiving by a request manager of the computer environment a first request from a requester, the first request associated with meta data, said meta data corresponding to data stored and maintained separately from the meta data by a data object manager of a storage subsystem of the computer environment, and said meta data being information about the data itself;

responsive to receipt of the first request at the request manager, processing the meta data associated with the first request and automatically informing, by the request manager, the data object manager of an anticipated, second request to be subsequently received by the data object manager from the requester to enable the data object manager to prepare for the anticipated, second request, prior to receipt thereof, wherein the anticipated, second request to be received by the data object manager is at least partially ascertained [[ascertainable]] from processing the meta data associated with the first request received by the request manager; and

wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by adjusting utilization of a cache of the storage subsystem of the computer environment based on information derived from the meta data associated with first request by the request manager before the anticipated, second request is received at the data object manager from the requester.

16. (Previously Presented) The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request, by at least one of pre-fetching into the cache data required by the anticipated, second request, thereby reducing data access latency or moving data from the cache to a disk of the storage subsystem, thereby facilitating receipt of data at the cache.

17. (Previously Presented) The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein said preparing comprises managing contents of a cache in a data storage subsystem, wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by noting that data associated with the anticipated second request is not to be cached.

18. (Previously Presented) The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein the data object manager prepares for the anticipated, second request by managing the requester's access to the data.

19. (Previously Presented) The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein said method further comprises:

sending, by the request manager, a reply to the requester in response to the first request substantially simultaneously with said informing; and

thereafter receiving, by the data object manager, the second request from the requester, wherein said preparing by the data object manager begins before the receiving by the data object manager.

20. (Previously Presented) The at least one program storage device of claim 15, wherein said pre-fetching comprises pre-fetching one or more data blocks from one or more storage media of the data storage subsystem whereby the data blocks are stored in the cache, the data blocks comprising at least some of the data.

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